REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12, 14-36, 38, 39, 41-45, 47, 48 and 50 have been amended for further clarification. Claims 1-50 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I.   **INTERVIEW SUMMARY:**

The Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the March 23, 2005 interview regarding the present invention. As a result of the interview, the Applicants assert that the present invention relates to pre-registering a customer's schedule information prior to a shipment request by a sender of a package. The Examiner asserts that Yang (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0072945 A1) discloses, paragraphs [0060] – [0065], setting a default time and date for delivery, wherein the default time and date serve as a pre-registered schedule.

The Examiner also asserts that the Yang discloses, in paragraph [0076], that the customer selects calendar days for delivery. In response, the Applicants assert that the present invention discloses a schedule over a plurality of days within a predetermined period. The Examiner again asserts that Yang discloses presetting location, date, and time (paragraph [0065]). Finally, the Applicants assert that present invention discloses registering schedule information of the customer in advance of shipment request received from a sender of a package. The Examiner asserts that the present invention is obvious in view of Yang. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Therefore, amendments have been made to the claims to further clarify the distinction of the present invention over the cited prior art references.

II.   **REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-50 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HUXTER (US PATENT PUBLICATION NO. 2002/0107820) IN VIEW OF YANG:**

At page 5 of the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004, the Examiner admits that Huxter fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1, 17, 18, 34 and 50. Specifically, the Examiner admits that Huxter fails to disclose "schedule information comprising at least one of the forms of receiving the package addressed to the member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period". However, the Examiner asserts that Yang discloses this feature.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method comprising "receiving and registering schedule information from a customer member, the schedule information corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period...determining a

delivery form with reference to the registered schedule information of the customer member, when a shipment request is received from a sender of a package…[and] generating delivery request information for a distributor in accordance with the determined delivery form, when the determined delivery form involves a movement of the package".

The Applicants respectfully submit that Yang fails to disclose all of the features recited in amended claim 1. Specifically, Yang fails to disclose "receiving and registering schedule information from a customer member, the schedule information corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period."

Instead, Yang discloses a mobile pickup station (MPS) server, which receives product shipping instructions from buyers or third party sellers. The server determining optimal pickup points using buyer commuting information and buyer delivery request (see Abstract). Specifically, the buyer accesses the server via the Internet and uses the delivery scheduling services of the server to define a pickup point to be used by the buyer. The server dispatches a MPS to the defined pickup point with the buyer's products (see paragraph [0041]. Further, the buyer is a person who purchases a product or an MPS service from a website (see paragraph [0047]).

Additionally, FIG. 2 of Yang discloses the buyer setting the pickup point and a pickup time and the server setting a station time a MPS stays at the pickup point. For example, the MPS server may set station time between 4pm and 7pm and the buyer comes between those times and picks up his/her product (see paragraph [0060]). Further, Yang discloses that the buyer can choose to set different routes, pickup points, and pickup times for each day on the calendar (see paragraph [0065]). In paragraph [0076], Yang discloses the buyer manually marking on a calendar the days the buyer wants to order a product and have it delivered.

However, the present invention allows a customer member to pre-register his availability status (i.e. available for receiving, not available for receiving, forward, keep until called for, etc) for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period(see page 2 of the Specification). The present invention further discloses, for example, determining a delivery form based upon the pre-registered availability status of the customer member, when a shipping request is received from a sender of a package to be sent to the customer member, and generating delivery request information to a distributor in accordance with the determined delivery form when the determined delivery form involves movement of the package. Further, in the present invention, the sender of

the package could be any individual sending a package to a customer member. It does not have to be based upon the customer buying a product to be pickup by the customer.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Yang teaches away from the present invention. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Yang fails to make up for the deficiencies of Huxter.

Accordingly, neither Huxter nor Yang, individually or combined, disclose all of the features recited in present invention. Thus, the combination of Huxter and Yang fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention.

Independent claims 17, 18, 34 and 50 have been amended to include similar recitations as in amended claim 1. Thus, although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited references. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

The dependent claims also recite patentable distinguishing limitations of their own. For example, dependent claims 5, 6 and 10 each disclose "giving the customer member receiving the package a predetermined point to reward a correct registration of the schedule information of the customer member receiving the package."

Huxter fails to disclose a relationship between the event of the receiving status data included in the delivery completion notice indicating the delivery has been performed by following a delivery schedule specified in the delivery form and the rewarding of the predetermined point.

Further, dependent claim 9, for example, recites "sending the sender of the package a notice comprising information regarding a deliverable date when the determined delivery form is that of undeliverable". Unlike the claimed invention, in Huxter, the schedule information is not registered, therefore, Huxter discloses the distributor sending his or her deliverable date. That is, the deliverable date may not correspond to the date in which the receiver can receive the package.

Further, dependent claim 11, for example, recites "generating delivery request information addressed to the distributor using forwarding destination information or keeping place information registered by the customer member in advance, when the determined delivery form is that of forwarding or keeping the package". Huxter also fails to disclose this feature.

Further, dependent claim 12, for example, recites "when the customer member to receive

the package is not available for receiving an the specified customer member is registered by the customer member, to receive the package on behalf of the customer member, the schedule information for the specified customer member is referenced". <u>Huxter</u> also fails to disclose this feature. <u>Huxter</u> assumes that goods are delivered to the home of the customer or any collection point.

Further, dependent claim 13, for example, recites "when a delivery request to a non-member, who is to receive the package, is received from a sender of said package, registering information of the non-member included in the delivery request as provisional customer member information, sending a customer member registration request to the non-member...membership registration is requested from the non-member." <u>Huxter</u> does not mention the membership registration of the receiver.

Further, dependent claim 14, for example, recites "the schedule information is received as a predetermined template selection instruction from the customer member". <u>Huxter</u> fails to disclose a template to set the schedule information.

Further, dependent claim 15, "the determining of a delivery form comprises sending a schedule input request to the customer member receiving the package when the schedule information of the customer member indicates the schedule information is not fixed". <u>Huxter</u> fails to disclose the schedule information of the receiver of the package registered as "not fixed"

Claims 16 is deemed allowable at least due to its dependency upon claim 1 for the reasons mentioned above.

The comments above may also be applied to claims 19-33 and 35-49, and therefore claims 19-33 and 35-49 are also deemed allowable.

III.   CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

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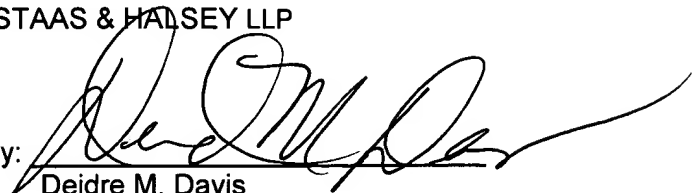
Respectfully submitted,

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